

JAMES GAUGHAN

v.

DEBRA GAUGHAN

Submitted on Briefs October 30, 2024

Decided November 19, 2024

Panel: STANFILL, C.J., and MEAD, HORTON, CONNORS, and DOUGLAS, JJ.

MEMORANDUM OF DECISION

Debra Gaughan appeals from a divorce judgment of the District Court (Bridgton, *Malia, J.*) ordering that she receive general spousal support, *see* 19-A M.R.S. § 951-A (2024), in the amount of \$500 per month from her former husband, James Gaughan, until the occurrence of either party's death, Debra's remarriage, or Debra's cohabitation. The court did not misapply section 951-A, or abuse its discretion, in ordering that Debra's spousal support terminate upon her cohabitation because a termination condition is an appropriate limit on spousal support under 19-A M.R.S. § 951-A(3)(E), and the court could have made a reasonable determination, within its sound discretion, *Catlett v. Catlett*, 2009 ME 49, ¶ 36, 970 A.2d 287, that the amended order would enable Debra to receive a greater amount of spousal support than she would have previously.

The court also did not abuse its discretion in ordering a monthly spousal support amount of \$500 since the court considered each and all of the spousal support factors set forth in 19-A M.R.S. § 951-A(5), *see Durkin v. Durkin*, 2019 ME 32, ¶ 10, 203 A.3d 812; *Carter v. Carter*, 2006 ME 68, ¶ 20, 900 A.2d 200, and fashioned an award "that permits both spouses to maintain a reasonable standard of living after the divorce," *see Harmon v. Harmon*, 2009 ME 2, ¶ 7, 962

A.2d 959 (quotation marks and alterations omitted). So too, the court acted within its discretion in not securing future support payments given that support terminates at the death of either party. *See Hess v. Hess*, 2007 ME 82, ¶ 26, 927 A.2d 391; 19-A M.R.S. § 951-A(5)(I), (8).

The entry is:

Judgment affirmed.

Gene R. Libby, Esq., and Sean C. Rogers, Esq., Libby O'Brien Kingsley & Champion, LLC, Kennebunk, for appellant Debra Gaughan

James Gaughan did not file a brief

Bridgton District Court docket number FM-2021-63
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